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alsine, large green patches of which were common. I except the bank of a small streamlet, which produced a specimen or two of the common species, showing that want of water alone was the cause of their absence on the plain. The pass (of Karakorum) was also perfectly dry, a mass of stones without a vestige of vegetation, phenogamous or cryptogamous; nor did anything of the kind appear till at least 500 feet below, and close to the bottom of the valley. Here a purple-flowered crucifera was highest. The whole number of flowering plants which rose above 17,000 feet was 16.

"I returned by the same route, and reached Nubra on the 2nd of September. It was originally my intention to descend the Shayok, but I found no prospect for more than a month of doing so, and I could not afford to remain so long."

Dr. Thomson reached Le on the 11th of September, and left it on the 13th, taking the most direct road to Kashmir, which city he reached on the 5th of October, in time to study the natural history of that interesting valley before the close of the season.

VII.—*Report on the River Nunez, its Trade and Resources.* By Lieut.-Commander THOMAS LYSAGHT, R.N. (Communicated by the Admiralty.)

[Read 22nd January, 1849.]

AT present about fifteen to twenty vessels, averaging from 200 to 300 tons, visit the river yearly. The majority of these are foreign—mostly French. The trade is, however, in the hands of British traders to a great extent, the natives having more confidence in them, and the more respectable French merchants preferring dealing with them to dealing with the petty traders of French extraction. The trade, before the recent troubles, has amounted to as much as 40,000*l.*, two-thirds of the imports being British manufactured goods and salt, the remainder French small wares and German arms. The exports were gold, ivory, hides, wax, and of late a large and increasing quantity of ground-nuts, nearly all of which are for the French market. Coffee of a good quality is grown, but owing to the prevailing low prices is now neglected. A considerable part of the gold and ivory which formerly came down the river finds its way out of the Foulah country by new channels, as by the river Tanunany, Mellacouvi, &c. The slave-trade has entirely ceased in this river, and the great demand for labour in cultivating the ground-nut will probably prevent its revival.

The river banks are inhabited by three distinct races, viz.

the Bagas, the Nelloes, and the Landamahs. The Bagas are a very retiring people, of pastoral habits, who live towards the mouth of the river. They are not in any way mixed up in the recent troubles. The Nelloes, or Nellahs, are a more intelligent but unprincipled race, which has emigrated from the north-westward, and forcibly established themselves on both sides of the river, from Victoria Point to Ropass, where they have much trade, being assisted by men of colour from Sierra Leone. The Landamahs are a quiet people, the original possessors of the Karcandy country, but whose power is fast passing away under the pressure of their more warlike neighbours, the Nelloes and the Foulahs from the interior, whose trade has brought them down in great force, and who have made the country of late years pay a regular tribute to them.

The recent dispute which has interrupted trade appears to have been a war of succession, or perhaps a question of legitimacy, between Toukah the elder, and Marjoryah the younger of the two sons of the late King of the Landamahs, whom all the traders have been accustomed to look to as the rightful rulers of the Karcandy country. This dispute is not very easy for Europeans to understand, but it appears that Toukah was nominated chief by Bouchainer, a very old person, who has that power as a kind of high priest; but Marjoryah, being in greater force, has disputed his elder brother's claim.

I had three interviews with Mahaden, the Foulah chief, who, finding that nothing was to be got from me, after much procrastination decided in favour of Marjoryah. The thing, I fear, is however by no means settled, as both the Foulahs and the French schooners of war must leave the country in the rainy season; and from the fact of Toukah, the unsuccessful candidate, having burnt his town Walkeria as soon as the thing was decided against him, and retired into the woods, it is most likely he will await the return of the Foulah caravan to their country, and attack them in an ambush, as was done on a former occasion.

I thought it right to call on the successful candidate, and took an opportunity, without expressing my opinion on his rights, to read to him my desire that he should protect the British traders in their peaceful rights, which he promised to do, as did the chiefs of his party. I likewise gave Lamina Towl, a Nelloe chief, and principal adviser of the new king, to understand he would be severely punished if he acted again in a hostile manner to Mr. Beaise, the chief of the factory at Ropass. The whole of the chiefs expressed their determination to protect the British traders as long as they remained neutral, and I have no doubt they will do so.

The appearance of a ship of the Grappler's force will have had, in my opinion, a very beneficial effect on the minds of the natives. I was visited by a great number of them, mostly from the interior.

Having done all that I could in the matter, I left the river on the 17th, leaving there the Amaranthe and Fine, French schooners of war, and a Belgian war schooner, which arrived during the night.

VIII.—*Extract from the Reports of M. HOFMANN, Chief of the Expedition to the North Ural.* (Communicated to Sir Roderick I. Murchison by Admiral Lütke, Vice-Pres. of the Imp. Geog. Soc. of St. Petersburg.)

[Read Jan. 8th, 1849.]

FROM Tobolsk M. Hofmann had descended the Ob in a boat. On the 27th of June the expedition had reached the mouth of the small river Voiker, which takes its rise in the Ural, and falls into the Ob in lat. $65^{\circ} 50'$. By this river the expedition arrived at the Ural range.

"We ascended the Voiker for two days, up to the place where our guides were expecting us with their reindeer. We crossed the mountain ridge, not without risk, owing to the rapidity of the torrents, which the thaw had caused to overflow. On the 7th of July we reached the eastern side of the chain, in lat. 66° , where bad weather detained us for four days. On the 11th of July we separated from Stroefoki, who took a southern direction, and proceeded towards the N., following the base of the mountain chain, which here rises abruptly from a naked plain; and though it be not very high, yet, owing to the steepness of its slope, its wild and rugged aspect, and the nakedness of its summit, it appears much more elevated than it really is. I do not think that the *Pai-ier*, the highest of its mountains to the N. of the 66th degree, has more than 3000 feet of absolute elevation. We had scarcely started when we experienced the first attacks of a scourge, little dangerous in appearance, but to which we nearly fell victims, viz., gnats; we had to traverse a space of about 2° lat., which, notwithstanding its rich pasture, the nomads avoid like the plague, on account of the innumerable swarms of these insects, which torment the reindeer even to their destruction. Indeed, their numbers increased with the heat in an incredible manner; our poor beasts, which could neither eat nor rest, pined away